1939

Appomattox County . . . Yesterday And Today

by Paul Ghioto

Visitors to the historic village of Old Appomattox Court House very seldom take a close look at one particular building. Passengers in cars speeding by it may make comments about its quaintness but never interrupt their journey to notice more. Indeed, Mariah Wright's frame house seems to just sit on the village's edge waiting for its former occupants to return.

Born in 1808, her maiden name unknown, Mariah married Pryor Wright, Jr. about 1824. Moving into the farmhouse built by her husband the previous year, she gave birth to their first son, Campbell, in 1827. Eventually she would have seven more children but censuses in the 1850's indicate that several died at a young age.

Her husband was a fairly wealthy man for the times. In addition to his house, he owned over 125 acres, a number of horses to work his fields, a few slaves and a silver watch - all taxable items.

In 1848 he erected another house on a lot immediately southwest of the new courthouse. (This house no longer stands but its location is marked in the park).

Increasing prosperity could not prevent her husband's death in 1854. In the resulting division of Pryor Wright's property, Mariah received the farmhouse and 71 acres.

Now a widow, she had the company of two daughters Sarah and Lenice, who lived with her. Lenice married John Rosser and they continued to stay in the farmhouse until family friction resulted in their moving into a home of their own across Plain Run.

The struggles of a civil war did not affect the Wright family until April, 1865. Confederate soldiers camped on the grounds the night of April 8 before advancing to a final attack the next morning. It must have been quite a sight.

On April 9 as Lee's men retreated before overwhelming numbers of blue infantry, the Wrights, if not in hiding, would have witnessed quite another sight. Spread out in a skirmish line advancing across their farm were soldiers of the Union Army's V Crops, 1st Division, Brigadier General Joshua L. Chamberlain, commanding the First Brigade, would later mention in his official report that his line's right was anchored on the widow Wright's home. In a few hours time, Mariah Wright had entered the history books.

In 1870, for some unknown reason, she changed her name to Maria Webb.

John and Lenice Rosser returned to live with her and help her take care of the house and property until she died at the age of 79 in 1887. Family tradition has it that she was buried in the little family cemetery south of the house, beside her husband and her children.

Rosser next owned the house and extremely remodelled it. Abandoning the outside kitchen, he added on a wing containing a dining room and inside kitchen. Larger windows were placed in the south wall and a gable projection added to permit a second story window facing west. A new porch was also added.

After Rosser's death in 1903, his heir sold the home and property to Mrs. Adelia Fergoson in 1911. In 1919 she sold the same real estatge to John L. Freeman of Wateska, Illinois. Freeman worked his farm for 17 years. During this time he tore down two dilapidated buildings, one a log barn and the other a summer kitchen. In 1937 he sold his property to the Federal Government.

The National Park Service restored the exterior of the Wright House to its 1865 appearance in 1964.

Looking back . . .

1. Appomattox's first fire chief was:
a.) Howard Freeman b.) John Rankin c.) Walter Scott d.) Claiborne Inge
2. This county group was first chartered in 1848:
a.) W.O.W. b.) Monroe Lodge c.) Gideons d.) Easters Star
3. This firm opened a receiving plant in 1945:
a.) Coble Milk Co. b.) Chic Garment c.) Amelia Dress d.) Appomattox Lime
4. Which man didn't help survey the new county in 1845?
a.) John Patteson b.) Z. E. Cheatham c.) Alexander Austin d.) Thomas O'Malley
5. This road follows part of the old Prince Edward Courthouse route.
a.) U.S. 460 b.) Rt. 627 c.) Rt. 656 d.) Court St.

Quiz questions partially taken from Stanley's "A History of Appomattox County".

Answers
1.) c. 2.) b. 3.) a. 4.) d. 5.) b

U.D.C. Meeting

Members of the Appomattox Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy met on March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Farmers National Bank, Triangle Plaza Branch for their regular monthly meeting. There were approximately 20 members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lena Evernde who led the group in pledges to the United States Flag and salutes to the Virginia Flag and to the Confederate Flag.

The ritual was read by Mrs. Mary Sue Gordon and prayer by Mrs. Thelma Martin.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer gave her report.

Mrs. Eversole announced that the annual District meeting will be held at Fairview Christian Church, Lynchburg, on April 12.

A coffee hour will be held from 9 to 9:45 a.m. and the conference called to order at 10 a.m.

There will be a charge of 50c for registration and $3.75 for lunch. For lunch tickets write to Mrs. Ruth B. Burgess, 1013 Pierce St., Lynchburg, Va.

Members are planning to take part in the Railroad Festival to be held this fall.

The committee that was named for this was Mrs. Tilden Lee, as chairman. Also Mrs. Helen Anderson, Mrs. Helen Gunter and Mrs. Mary Fannie Phelps.

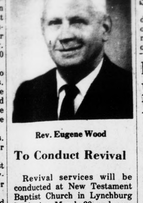
Using as her topic "Confederate Air Power", Mrs. Lucille Ferrell, historian was program speaker. She stated that - Before 1866 there was a rash of ballons and balloonists in the U.S. Most of them were seeking thrill and fame. The ballon played a significant part in the struggle for the Union and the Confederates during the war years 1861 - 1865.

The first reported aerial activity of the Confederate by the Northern press was at Manassas, Va. on June 14, 1861. Confederate forces were ordered to this area to check an impending union invasion, and were under the commands of Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard and Joseph E. Johnston.

Mrs. Norma Moore led the group in singing patriotic songs, closing with "Blest Be The Tie". Hostesses were Mrs. L. H. Childess, Mrs. Raymond Godsey, Mrs. Tilden Lee, Miss Ruby Adams, Miss Emogene Adams, Mrs. John Baker and Mrs. Marion Tweedy. The April meeting will be held on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Farmer's National Bank, Triangle Plaza Bank.

Hostesses will be Mrs. Wiley Moore, Mrs. Alton Moore, Mrs. Claude A. Moore, Mrs. H. L. Wilkerson, Mrs. E. J. Hillsman and Mrs. B. Curry Harvey.

Mrs. Tilden Lee, Assistant
U.D.C. Publicity Chairman



Rev. Eugene Wood

To Conduct Revival

Revival services will be conducted at New Testament Baptist Church in Lynchburg beginning March 30 and continuing through April 6. Services will begin each night at 7:30 p.m. with The Rev. Eugene Wood, evangelist from Eden, N.C. in charge of the services.

There will be special singing at all services.

Richard B. Baber, pastor of the church, extends a warm welcome to all.

Mrs. Walton's 4-H Club

Mrs. Walton's sixth grade class held their 4-H meeting on March 19, 1975. Mary Davidson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Donna Martin led us in the 4-H Pledge.

We played a game called Dog and the Bone.

The County Demonstration will be held on May 24.

Mr. Sweet passed out wildlife feed contest books. He announced there will be a horse and pony club. This was also brought in posters of two sixth grades.

Students in last year's county demonstration. They were on bicycle safety and on how to identify snakes. Two senior 4-H'ers brought in posters for the county demonstration. They were on ceramics and dogs riding in cars.

Mariana Johnson, Reporter

SPOUT SPRING EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB

The Spout Spring Extension Homemakers will meet with Mrs. Van Cyrus at 7:30 p.m. on Thurs., March 27, 1975. Our topic for this meeting is "How to Sew and Care for New Fabrics". All members please plan to attend.

Mouth Cancer Detection Day Set

A mouth cancer detection day will be held in Appomattox on Sunday, April 13th, from 12 noon until 5 p.m. at the offices of Dr. S. R. Lawson and Dr. J. M. Fedison.

This is the second year that a clinic of this type has been conducted in Appomattox County. Everyone is encouraged to register and have the FREE examination whether or not they have had a recent dental examination or treatment. Persons who no longer have teeth or who are wearing upper or lower dentures are particularly urged to attend.

Cancer of the mouth is one of the easiest cancers to cure and treat in its early stages, but if it is left unattended it can be among the most fatal cancers.

So remember "WIDE" on April 13 — Cancer Detection Day.

Representive Holds Meeting

The Assembly Committmen's meeting was held in the home of Mrs. T. W. Hamlet, Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00.

The Representive, Mrs. Hamlet talked to the committeemen about what the Assembly really is and how to make it stronger. She told them many things the assembly had done to improve and protect our living conditions in the community. She also stated that there is much more to be done to clean and protect our community from crime, drugs and trash.

Working together in the Assembly will help us to do all this and much more.

All present enjoyed the discussion and the association one with the other, also the delicious repast.

The remaining evening was spent chatting with the Assembly secretary, Mrs. Hanah Rice, who arrived just at the closing of the meeting.

That too was informative and enjoyable.

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1973 Chevrolet
IMPALA - 4 Dr. Hard Top - 350 V-8 - Fully Equipped - Factory Air Condition - Low Mileage - Extra Clean

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MONTA CARLO Sport Coupe - 350 - V8 - Fully Equipped - Factory Air Condition - 11,000 Miles - One Owner - Like New.

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NOVA Coupe - 350 V-8 Fully Equipped - Factory Air Condition - Low Mileage - One Owner - Extra Clean

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1973 Chevelle
MALIBU COUPE - 350 V8 Motor - Fully Equipped - Factory Air - Vinyl Seats, 13,000 miles - Extra Clean - One Owner.

1970 Chevrolet
IMPALA 4 Dr. - 350 V8 Engine - Fully Equipped - Factory Air - Vinyl Seats - Extra Clean

1972 Ford
MAVERICK 2 Dr. 302 V8 Engine - Automatic Transmission - Power Steering - Radio - White Wall Tires - Extra Clean - One Owner.

1973 Chevrolet
BEL AIR Station Wagon - 350 V8 - Fully Equipped - Factory Air - Vinyl Seat - Extra Clean - One Owner

TRUCKS

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¾ Ton Camper Special Pick up with Camper - V8 Turbo Transmission - Power Steering - Air Condition - Radio - Extra Clean - One Owner.

1974 Jeep
½ Ton Pick Up - 360 V8 Motor - Automatic Transmission - 4 Wheel Drive - Power Steering - Radio - Low Mileage - One Owner.

1971 Chevrolet
FLEETSIDE - ½ Ton Pick Up - 360 V8 Motor - Automatic Transmission - 4 Wheel Drive - Power Steering - Radio - Low Mileage - Extra Clean - One Owner.

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GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

...IONS ABOUND!

...time of seemingly ...shortages, news of ...onion supply should ...welcome change. The ...onion supply has ...complete turnabout ...only less than two ...when it was labeled ...shortage in 50 ...fact, the storage ...up approximately ...the 1970-73 av. ...decide to take ...of this heavy supply ...to store the onions ...mature onions ...stand in a cool, dark, ...ventilated place to ...sprouting and decay. ...unused portions ...covered and refrigerated ...onions will keep for ...days. Chopped onions ...freeze. They offer real ...when only a small ...needed.

...selecting dry onions, ...firm, shiny, and solid ...dry crackly skins. ...Avoid showing signs of ...moisture or mold ...neck or base. Look ...that are symetrically ...thick necks are ...onions with double ...thick necks are ...only because of ...

...have been graded, ...U. S. No. 1 are ...They have good ...free from decay ...sprouting or ...a tough, woody ...core.

...cannot be judged for ...by color, but shape ...sometimes helpful. ...shoppers may ...or round onions that ...to be sweet and mild.

...and onion products ...We are very sorry to say ...these products ...moisture readily, they ...stored in tightly ...containers away from ...moisture.

...pounds of fresh ...needed to yield 1 ...dehydrated onions. ...form of dehydrated ...include onion flakes, ...onions, onion powder, ...onion salt. Onion flakes and ...powders are pieces of ...dried onion salt is a ...of onion powder and ...

Onions are served as vegetables, in soups and stews, or as flavor ingredients. They can be fried, baked, boiled, creamed, pickled, and steamed. Most cooks count on onions as a kitchen staple. If you fall into that group, take advantage of this year's onion bounty and experiment with new ways to use onions in your meals.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
CARROT CAKE

2 c. sugar
2 c. flour
2 tsp. soda or baking powder
1 tsp. salt (opt.)
2 to 2½ tsp. cinnamon
1½ c. cooking oil
4 eggs
3 c. grated carrots
1 c. chopped nuts (opt.)

Combine all ingredients; mix thoroughly. Pour into greased and floured 9 inch cake pans, one 10 x 14 inch pan or a tube pan. Bake at 325 to 350 degrees until cake tests done. Cool.

FROSTING:
½ to 1 stick margarine
6 to 8 oz. cream cheese
¾ to 1 box confectioners sugar
2 to 4 tsp. vanilla flavoring
1 c. chopped pecans (opt.

Cream margarine and cheese; add sugar, vanilla and nuts. Beat until smooth. Frost cake. Yield: 16 servings.

VFWC Project

Mrs. H. E. Marlowe, left, Alice Kyle District Conservation Chairman, and Mrs. John Canada, right, Vice-Chairman, are shown with the Reynolds Mobile Van Unit during the Spring District Meeting at ACHS on March 15, 1975.

"We're doing our part" read the poster on the Reynolds Mobile Van when it stopped recently at the Appomattox County High School to collect scrap aluminum and beverage cans turned in by members of the Alice Kyle District of Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs at their Spring Meeting on March 15.

A grand total of 280 pounds of aluminum was turned in by the 52 Junior and General Clubs. The Reynolds Company paid the Virginia Federation 15c a pound at the meeting for the scrap aluminum, money which will go toward scholarships for teachers and students to attend environmental courses at Virginia colleges.

In addition to raising funds for these scholarships, this two-year project enables citizens to improve the environment by preserving a valuable natural resource, reducing litter and solid waste, and conserving energy needed to make new aluminum.

Hollywood

A good crowd was out to hear Rev. Paul Balthaser Sunday at Hollywood.

The Appomattox Baptist Associational leaders for Acteens met with Hollywood Church Monday night. A large crowd was out for this meeting.

We are so glad Mrs. Ervod Conner is home from the hospital and improving nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. David Austin and family entertained Mrs. Norval Bagby to Richmond Sunday to see Mrs. Bagby's husband who is a patient in the Veterans Hospital there. We pray Mr. Barby may soon be well.

Mr. James Maxwell returned home Friday from the hospital. We are so glad he is improving nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Webb visited Mrs. Addie Jenkins and Mrs. Ber Abbitt at the Liberty Nursing Home in Lynchburg Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson, Sr. spent a few days last week with their son, Mr. L. H. Watson, Jr. and family of Alexandria.

We are very sorry to say Mrs. Elliott Torrence is sick. We pray she may soon be well.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Jennings and granddaughter, Angie Rivers of Christiansburg, spent Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Webb and family.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Jenkins Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jenkins and Miss Cynthia Jenkins of Lynchburg and Mr. and Mrs. Twyman Baldwin.

Miss Brenda Almond and Jeffery Kendricks called in the home of Mrs. Mary Bagby Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodal and Lisa visited Mrs. Bagby Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Turns of Farmville, spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. W. T. Covington.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Day were visitors Sunday night of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Torrence.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Mayberry of Newport News, were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and family. Mrs. Ioas Mayberry returned home with them Sunday after spending some time in the Deaner home.

Mrs. Mattie C. Franklin who recently spent some time with her daughter, Mrs. Sam McFall and family, of Lynchburg, has returned home.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield and family Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. James Waldron and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dill and family of Bedford and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Williams of Lynchburg.

Miss Odell Webb and Miss Joyce Webb called in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Woodson, of Lynchburg Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Webb, Miss Joyce Webb and Miss Odell Webb visited their sister and aunt, Mrs. Robert Morris at the Holy Manor Nursing Home in Farmville Sunday afternoon. We are happy to hear Mrs. Morris is better.

Preaching service will be at 9 o'clock Sunday morning at Hollywood Baptist Church. Sunday School will follow the preaching service.

Evergreen

Robert Lee Smith of Christiansburg, Virginia was a recent visitor in the homes of Rev. and Mrs. R. T. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Hamilton.

Mrs. A.B. Driver of Ladysmith spent last week with her brother and sister-in-law Rev. and Mrs. R. T. Smith.

Mrs. R. T.Smith has returned to her home and is recuperating nicely after having undergone surgery at the Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Mrs. Bruce H. Paulette, Traci Paulette, Mrs. Anne Wells and Tammy Wells spent Sunday in Waynesboro with Miss Gaye Kiefert.

Bruce H. Paulette and son B. H. 111 spent Sunday in the home of his mother Mrs. E. W. Paulette Sr.

E. W. Paulette Jr. of Bluefield College is spending the Easter vacation with his mother Mrs. E. W. Paulette Sr.

Mrs. Julia Rahim will leave Friday morning for Chattanooga, Tennessee where she will meet her parents Mr. and Mrs. Howard V.Ehrhart of Indianapolis, Indiana for Easter week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Temple Paulette and daughter Melinda of Roanoke, Virginia visited in the home of his mother Mrs. R.J. Paulette Sr. and Mrs. John Krause during the week-end.

First Aid Class To Begin March 27

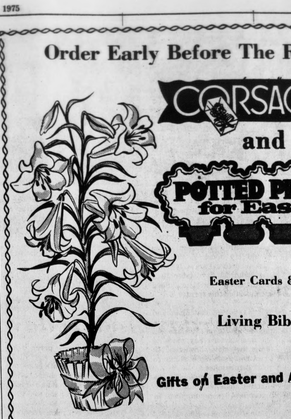
A twenty-hour class in Standard First Aid and Personal Safety will be taught at the Appomattox County Rescue Squad building beginning on Thursday night, March 27, at 7 p.m.

Classes will be held each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. for seven consecutive weeks.

Instructors for the Standard First Aid classes will be Pete Doss and Grover Beasley, Jr., both members of the local Rescue Squad.

If there is sufficient interest, an Advanced First Aid class will be taught at a later date.

Order Early Before The Rush



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